UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON THE APPLICATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE LESS DEVELOPED AREAS

E/CONF.39/H/54
SUMMARY
16 Nov.1962
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL : SPANISH

SUMMARY

Agenda Item: H.1.

Spain

THE BADAJOZ PLAN

By Enrique MARTIN MARTIN,
Head of the Plan Secretariat
(National Industrial Institute)
(I.N.I.)

Papers have been contributed to the United Nations Conference on the Application of Science and Technology for the Benefit of the Less Developed Areas as working papers for that Conference. They are published as presented by the contributors, and the contents and the views expressed are those of the contributors. (See notes overleaf.)

NOTES

1. Papers selected for inclusion in General Sessions will be available at the Conference in the following official languages of the United Nations: English, French, Russian and Spanish.

2. Papers selected for inclusion in Specialized Sessions will be available at the Conference in only one of the above official languages.

3. Summaries of all papers, as submitted by contributors, will be available at the Conference in the following official languages of the United Nations: English, French, Russian and Spanish.

4. Papers and summaries will not be available for general distribution in advance of the Conference. They will be published in advance in limited quantities only for the use of delegations of participating governments and of other authorized participants. Post-Conference publication and general distribution of the Conference Proceedings will follow United Nations practices as laid down by the United Nations Publications Board.

THE BADAJOZ PLAN

By

ENRIQUE MARTIN MARTIN, HEAD OF THE PLAN SECRETARIAT (I.N.I.)

The lack of balance between the population and the economic structure of the province of Badajoz, which is mainly agricultural, and the fact that the province had a number of hitherto unrealised potentialities were the causes which motivated the launching of the plan in 1952 aimed at raising the provincial income and improving its distribution.

This plan provides for State investment designed to re-organize agriculture in a restricted natural region of the province, the low lying land bordering the river Guadiana. The transformation of this region into irrigated land will increase its production tenfold.

The transformation, which is based on regulating and utilising the waters of the river in question, is accompanied by a process of industrialising both the products of the new irrigable areas as well as the natural resources of the province. This process is entrusted to private enterprise guided and stimulated by the granting of certain concessions for the installation of new industries. Should private enterprise be lacking or inadequate, the plan provides for action by the Instituto Nacional de Industria (I.N.I.) (National Industrial Institute).

These activities are backed up by others aimed at modifying the provincial infrastructure (communications, electricity, re-afforestation) which, as it becomes adapted to the new situation, facilitates the expansion of the centre of wealth created on the lowlands of the river Guadiana.

In addition to the foregoing economic activities, another, primarily social, activity is planned, namely the redistribution of agricultural holdings in the areas converted to irrigation. Part of the latter, constituting 40% of the total land, will be expropriated with fair compensation and allotted to new farmers who, in addition to a 4 - 5 hectare family holding in the case of settlers or a 0.5 hectare extra plot in the case of agricultural workers, will be provided with housing accommodation suitable for their needs and located in new settlements built for the purpose.

The new communities thus formed are the object of a campaign which may be termed 'integral development' in that during the first 5 years of their new life, the members receive instruction in technical, economic and professional matters and at the same time a grounding in social and cooperative activities.

The Badajoz Plan was drawn up by an Interministerial Technical Committee appointed for the purpose and based on another economico-social plan for the province compiled locally as well as the provisions regarding the utilisation of the river Guadiana for irrigation as set out in national development plans prior to the Badajoz plan.

The Badajoz Plan is being implemented via the usual official channels combined specifically for this joint, coordinated campaign into a Permanent Management Committee made up of the heads of the General Administrative Sections of the Ministerial Departments involved in implementing the plan, the leading provincial authorities and representatives of the Ministry of Labour, the Trades Union Movement (Organizacion Sindical) and the National Industrial Institute (I.N.I.). This committee delegates some of its powers to a restricted committee whilst the task of gathering information, submitting reports and executing decisions of the administering bodies referred to has been entrusted to an Administrative Secretariat which is responsible to the Prime Minister's Office through the National Industrial Institute, of which it forms part.

The internal coordination of the activities covered by the plan is ensured by the plan itself which provides for phasing of the various types of activities, these being specified and detailed later via the partial Coordinated Works Plans and, finally, adjusted each year by the drawing up of annual operations or investment programmes.

The results obtained indicate that the plan is 2 or 3 years behind schedule, in regard to some activities, the main cause being the need - not adequately allowed for when the plan was formulated - to provide for a preparatory period for the perfecting of the various means involved in a task as complex as the Badajoz Plan. That period was about 3 years, and at the end of it the implementing machinery was capable not only of ensuring that the work proceeded at a normal rate, but also, if so it were decided, of making up the initial lag.

Both in conception and in its provisions the Badajoz Plan may be regarded as of limited scope within the context of the integral development of the province to which it contributes with its activities supplementing those undertaken by the local authorities and those of a national character catering for problems that are not confined to the province.

Of earlier date than the National Development Plan, the Badajoz Plan may be considered a forerunner of the former not only because it helps to close the gap which initially separated the province from other, economically more advanced provinces - the intrinsic objective of the national development plan - but also because it contributes to the results which the latter sets out to achieve.

The launching of the national development plan is intended to finish off the tasks specifically assigned to the Badajoz Pl ..

3 - 1110 E - Nov.1962 - 1,600